SUBJECTS

145 The desirability of entertaining the Pulayas in the subordinate ranks of the State service.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) said that the Government had promised, at the last session of the Assembly, to consider favourably the question of appointing the Pulayas in the subordinate ranks of the State service. He was aware that the departments the Pulayas could now be admitted to were few in number. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to issue orders for their free employment in the departments named below and in the way suggested :—

(1) There were now some Pulayas in the Government Press employed as piece-workers. He requested that they might be taken into the permanent service and also a few others who knew composing well.

(2) The Pulayas were now freely employed as coolies in the Public Works Department. A few others who were sufficiently educated might be given small appointments such as maistries.

(3) He had supplied a list of hospitals with Pulaya wards for the appointment of Pulayas as warders in them on the requisition of the Government; but he was unable to know what action, if any, was taken on the same. He prayed that early orders be issued to appoint Pulaya warders in all of them.

(4) In the Forest Department, the Pulayas might with advantage be appointed as watchers and guards and he therefore requested that they be appointed as such.

(5) The School of Arts also had several works on which the Pulayas could be profitably employed.

The above were some of the departments of the State where the Pulayas could, in the Member's opinion, be freely appointed. He requested that they be appointed wherever, in the opinion of the Government, any special technical or higher educational qualifications were not essential.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be enquired into. It is a good idea to employ the Pulayas more largely in the Forest Department.

146. The disabilities of the depressed classes of Nanjanad, with special reference to the Pariahs of Thovala and Agastiswaram.

Mr. G. Jesudasen (Member, Nominated) said that he was one of those whose life-work was devoted to the moral and spiritual elevation of the depressed classes of South Travancore. The depressed classes in South Travancore meant only certain classes who were acknowledged socially, morally, mentally and pecuniarily as backward. They were known as the "Panchamas" in the Madras Presidency. They consisted of Pariahs, Pallas and Koravas, of whom the Pariahs predominated. They were engaged in field labour. The agricultural well-being of Nanjanad was bound with that of the Pariahs who actually cultivated the land and not with that of the few land-owning communities. It is the Pariahs who, at the sweat of their brow, helped to fill the barns of the land-owing classes with grain, and the corresponding privileges, nay even the wages enjoyed by the Pariahs, were almost *nil*. They were not thought to have

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